

**ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IC
JUNE 11, 2012
EXHIBIT 9**

**Proposal from Montana Hearing Society
June 11, 2012**

2-15-1740. Board of hearing aid dispensers. (1) There is a board of hearing aid dispensers.

(2) The board consists of five members appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate, including:

(a) **FOUR** members, each of whom does not hold a master's level college degree in audiology but has been a licensed dispenser and fitter of hearing aids for at least 5 years before being appointed to the board; and

(b) one public member who is either an otolaryngologist or a person who is not a licensed hearing aid dispenser or a licensed audiologist and who regularly uses a hearing aid because of a demonstrated hearing impairment.

(3) Each member shall serve for 3-year terms. A member may not be reappointed within 1 year after the expiration of the member's second consecutive full term.

(4) The board is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

The Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers will be responsible for licensing and testing hearing aid dispensers. The Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers will responsible for addressing physical complaints.

The Montana Office of Consumer Protection will address complaints dealing with hearing aid contracts.

It may be useful to include penalties for dispensers found in violation of disputed contracts to fund this proposal.

Susan Good Geise
396 4645